Tidelines
FALL 2005
A NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COASTAL PROGRAM

U.S. Senate committee approves CZMA reauthorization

On July 21, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation voted to approve the *Coastal Zone Management Reauthorization Act of 2005 (S. 360).* The proposed legislation reauthorizes the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 and provides gradual increases in funding authorizations for coastal programs.

The current bill calls for approximately $90 million to the Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) in FY 2005 and increased funding levels each year to $98 million in FY 2008. The CZMP is administered by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to federally approved state coastal programs, including NHCP.

The CZMA sets policy guidelines and funding limits for state coastal programs. The authorization changes policy in three major ways. The bill would allow for increased funding for the 309 program, which is used by NHCP to support policy and restoration work. The bill would also allow NHCP to use CZMA funds to implement and enhance the coastal nonpoint source pollution program. In addition, the legislation creates a new Coastal Community Grant Program to assist communities with sustainable growth and sprawl issues.

On the funding side, the funding cap of $2 million on the 306 program is being eliminated. The 306 program funds the bulk of coastal program activities. While this has little immediate effect on New Hampshire, which receives about $1 million, states with long coastlines have been "maxed out" for many years, said Ted Diers, NHCP Program Manager.

The increase in the overall program funding in the reauthorization should send a message about the importance of coastal zone management; however, it's highly unlikely that the authorized funding currently in the bill will be appropriated, according to Diers.

"Should we get any increases in our funding, those funds are passed through directly to coastal communities, nonprofits and educational institutions. If the CZMA was actually funded at $90 mil-

CZMA, continued on page 7

Jane Albert, 11, and Mary Albert, 9, measure fish during a salt marsh monitoring session at Vol's Island in Newmarket in June. Turn to page 4 to find out more. Photo: Victor Tine

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Manager's Musings

As you read this, the reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act is winding its way through the Congress. The article on the CZMA in this edition of *Tidelines* outlines its importance to New Hampshire. This bill and several others under discussion in Congress are a direct result of the recent Ocean Commission report (www.oceancommission.gov) and the subsequent administration response (ocean.ceq.gov/actionplan.pdf). Each of these documents identifies the vital links between the ocean and the coast and concludes that we cannot conserve ocean resources without addressing coastal issues.

NHCP and other coastal programs are funded through Congressional appropriation to NOAA, which happens annually as part of the federal budget process. The CZMA, which is a policy act renewed every five to eight years, guides funding levels and how the funding is used by the states. On the policy side, these are exciting times. But policy gets implemented by people. And people cost money. Despite the focus on ocean and coastal issues at the highest levels of government, funding for coastal management is decreasing. Last year the NHCP received a 23 percent cut in federal funding. Congressional appropriations to NOAA for fiscal year 2006 also include cuts. At the same time, program costs have increased dramatically. So while we are required to do the same activities, we have fewer dollars to do them. This means that we pass fewer dollars through to the coastal communities who do the on-the-ground management of resources and land-use. What are we doing about it? We are working hard to make ourselves more efficient, looking for other sources of funding, entering into a strategic planning effort to prioritize resources, and developing measures of our effectiveness. What can you do about it? Contact your legislative delegation (both state and federal) to tell them what coastal funds have meant for your community or organization, help us to identify strategic partnerships to leverage funding, and share your good ideas for improved coastal zone management.

Speaking of our congressional delegation, Sen. John Sununu now chairs the Senate's National Ocean Policy Subcommittee. The NHCP would like the subcommittee to focus on the linkages between the coastal lands and the oceans. Specifically, it should explore three issue areas: 1) Ecosystem-based management, 2) Nutrient enrichment from land-based sources, and 3) Emerging energy issues such as liquefied natural gas , wind and tidal energy. Within these areas, specific improvements in governance and research are required. Sen. Sununu also introduced legislation to protect and restore coral reefs – yes, the Gulf of Maine *does* have two species of cold-water coral: *Primnoa resedaeformis* and *Paragorgia arborea*.

Finally, let's make sure we celebrate our successes. As you can see from examples in this edition of Tidelines, the communities and organizations in coastal New Hampshire are making great strides in land protection, habitat restoration and water quality improvement. Working together, we can continue and expand on these successes.

NOAA appropriations cut in House Bill

In mid-June, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a fiscal year 2006 appropriations bill *(H.R. 2862)* that significantly lowers NOAA appropriations.

Under the bill, NOAA receives $3.38 billion, which is $546 million below fiscal year 2005 levels and $202 million below the president's request.

The bill funds CZMA grants at $64 million, down $3 million from fiscal year 2005 appropriations. Coastal nonpoint pollution grants, which have received steep cuts for the past three years, have been cut from $3 million to zero.

The funding changes will limit NHCP's flexibility to fund projects outside the 17 coastal zone communities. Less money will be available to fund watershed-wide work, said Ted Diers, NHCP's Program Manager.

The current NOAA funding being discussed in the Senate is $70 million.

"That will not quite keep us level funded for next year, and the House version would be a significant cut," said Diers.

Congressional highlights

S. 361, Ocean and Coastal Observation System Act, introduced by Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, was passed in the Senate on July 1 and establishes a national ocean and coastal observing program that would provide continuous and comprehensive data on ocean and coastal conditions. The bill directs at least 50 percent of the appropriated funds to certified regional associations.

S. 362, the Marine Debris Research, Prevention and Reduction Act, introduced by Sens. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, and Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, was passed in the Senate on July 1 and creates a comprehensive national effort to reverse the detrimental impact of marine-borne trash on coastal areas, sensitive marine life, and navigation safety.

S. 363, the Ballast Water Management Act of 2005, introduced by Sen. Daniel Inouye, was approved on July 21 by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. The bill requires mid-ocean exchanges of water, sets new standards for discharges into U.S. waters, and sets treatment standards for releasing ballast water, or water that is stored on ships to stabilize them in the absence of cargo.

S. 1390, the Coral Reef Conservation Amendments Act of 2005, introduced by Sen. Daniel Inouye and co-sponsored by Sens. John Sununu, R-N.H., and Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, was approved on July 21 by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. The legislation reauthorizes and amends the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and enhances the resources and damage prevention measures needed to ensure the long-term health of the nation's coral reefs.

DES submits "No Discharge" proposal to EPA

In July, DES submitted a proposal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to designate all New Hampshire coastal waters as a "No Discharge Area" for boat sewage. The proposal has a 45-day public comment period, which will end on August 22.

Under the current law, boats with a holding tank can remove their wastes at an approved discharge site or travel beyond the three-mile limit. Boats that contain treatment systems for sewage wastes are allowed to discharge within the three-mile state boundary. However, with a "No Discharge Area" designation, all boats would be prohibited from discharging within the three-mile limit.

Both human health and coastal environments are threatened by disease carrying bacteria and viruses that enter the water when boats directly discharge sewage. Bacteria, chemicals, and nutrients contained in human waste can overload small, poorly flushed waterways and cause local water quality problems. Direct threats to human health can arise through ingestion of contaminated water or consumption of fish or shellfish that have ingested these pathogens.

NHCP Project Highlights – *Enhancing the lives of people living in Great Bay an*

Exeter River Project

The Great Dam is located on the Exeter River in downtown Exeter. Management issues surrounding the dam include flooding, poor water quality in the impoundment just upstream of the dam, and declining fish populations. A coordinated management approach, which involves multiple stakeholders, public input, and scientific research, will result in a plan that identifies actions to guide future management. NHCP's project support includes meeting coordination and funding to project partners, including the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee and Rockingham Regional Planning Commission.

The Exeter/Squamscott River flows through downtown Exeter. Photo: Eric M. Winch © 2005 iworksmedia.com

Salt marsh volunteers provide data to resource managers

The New Hampshire Marsh Monitors is run through a partnership between NHCP and Ducks Unlimited. Throughout the summer, volunteers assess salt marsh health by monitoring and sampling salinity and groundwater levels, vegetation, and fish and bird populations. Now in its third year, salt marsh monitor data is used to evaluate what sites may need restoration in the future (pre-restoration sites) and how well restoration efforts are working where restoration has already been done (post-restoration sites).

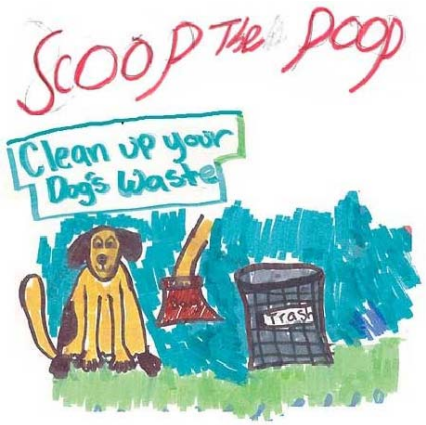
The data is compiled and analyzed by scientists at UNH and the Wells Natural Estuarine Research Reserve. These findings will be used as measurements to support state and regional programs that evaluate wetland restoration potential, actions and success. State program officials also hope to compile a state of the salt marshes report, including all restoration activities and potential projects over the last ten years.

Watershed plan development to begin

NHCP has contracted with The Nature Conservancy to develop a draft Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan (CELCP). The CELCP will assess and prioritize conservation needs in the Great Bay Watershed. This plan must be submitted to NOAA for review and approval prior to New Hampshire becoming eligible to nominate grant applications under the Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program, which was established in fiscal year 2002 to preserve threatened ecologically and recreationally important lands. The public will be invited to comment and assist with the CELCP.

Outreach program targets responsible dog ownership

This summer saw the kick off of the Pet Waste Project Outreach Program, a collaborative effort between the city of Dover, resident volunteers, and NHCP and other DES staff, to educate dog owners on the value of cleaning up pet waste. Pet waste can contain harmful organisms, like giardia and salmonella, which can cause human health problems. The program is focused on the Garrison Road neighborhood, one of the sites in the Great Bay Watershed where elevated bacteria levels found by UNH and DES researchers were linked to dog waste. A Pet Waste Committee, formed by neighborhood residents, city officials, and NHCP and other DES staff, came up with an education



The winning logo, designed by Sophia Al-Kaleem, 10, and Abaigael Dodge, 9.

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strategy that included a logo design contest for children attending the Garrison Road Playground Program this summer.

Volunteers help keep beaches clean

Through several programs, volunteers regularly clean up trash and other marine debris on New Hampshire's coast and record their findings. The Blue Ocean Society coordinates monthly beach cleanups at Jenness State Beach. In addition, students, businesses, nonprofit groups and individuals can volunteer to clean a specific beach once a month as part of the Adopt-a-Beach Program. Through NHCP funding, all training and supplies are provided to volunteers by the Blue Ocean Society.

Club Finz members during a cleanup on Wallis Sands Beach in Rye, as part of the Adopt-a-Beach Program. Club Finz of Seacoast New Hampshire and Maine fosters community spirit through social and volunteer activities.

Wakefield "Dealing with Growth Presentation" gets outstanding turnout

In June, 100 Wakefield town officials, business owners and residents came together to learn about how the community can grow while protecting its natural resources. The "Dealing with Growth Workshop" series is coordinated by the Natural Resource Outreach Coalition (NROC), a partnership with the UNH Cooperative Extension, NHCP and other regional and nonprofit organizations.

Gulf of Maine Council Corner

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is a U.S.-Canadian partnership of government and non-government organizations in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia working to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine.

One of the Council's long-term goals is to help identify and track a set of regional environmental indicators and produce a "State of the Gulf" report.

Environmental indicators are used to describe the status and trends of natural resources, environmental health, and ecological condition. They help raise awareness about important issues, can inform environmental policy decisions, and serve as a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of management actions. For more information about indicators, visit www.gulfofmaine.org/knowledgebase/indicators/.

Both the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission call on the U.S. to adopt "ecosystem-based management" as a cornerstone of new ocean policies. But what does "ecosystem-based management" really mean? While many managers, policy-makers, and scientists are talking about ecosystem-based management, until now there has been little agreement on a definition or the key elements of this approach. To inform and assist policy discussions, over 200 academic scientists and policy experts have signed a consensus statement on marine ecosystem-based management. Developed by a large number of scientists with relevant expertise, the statement highlights the current scientific understanding of marine ecosystems, explains how this knowledge shapes the calls for a new management approach, and describes what the scientific community envisions when it recommends "ecosystem-based management" for the oceans. The statement was released on March 21, 2005, in Washington, D.C., at a House Oceans Caucus luncheon. Visit www.gulfofmaine.org/news/ to download a copy of the consensus.

For more information on the Gulf of Maine Council goals, action plans and projects visit: www.gulfofmaine.org.

NHCP welcomes new coastal restoration coordinator

In her past work, Beth Lambert's listening ability was an invaluable skill with stakeholders, who ran the gamut from ranchers to non-profit representatives.

As the new coastal restoration coordinator, Beth will administer the Coastal Enhancement Grant Program, including the identification and implementation of changes to improve the program, the development of long range plans and budgets, and grant administration. The Coastal Enhancement Grant Program focuses on coastal habitat restoration, wetland policy and land-use issues.

Beth comes to New Hampshire after working on wild salmon habitat restoration with the Oregon Sea Grant/Oregon State University Extension in northwest Oregon for four and a half years. According to Beth, the key to building good relationships with stakeholders is to listen.

Beth Lambert.

"I listened and then made suggestions," she said.

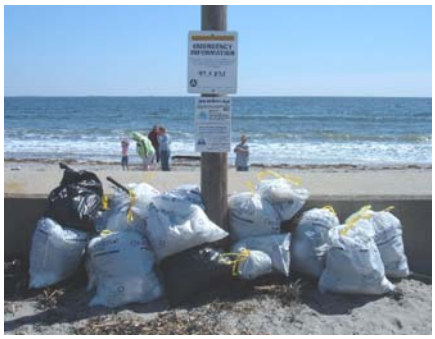
Beth studied geology at Carleton College in Minnesota and went on to get a graduate degree from Oregon State University in physical geography and hydrology.

Her interest in geology comes from a desire to have a better understanding of natural processes.

"I like learning to see the landscape with different eyes," she said.

20th International Coastal Cleanup Day

On Saturday, September 17, volunteers around the world will collect marine debris and record their findings. The data documents what ends up on the coast and helps determine what pollution laws are working and what outreach tactics may be needed. In New Hampshire, the Blue Ocean Society will coordinate the event with NHCP funding.



Work will be done on approximately 20 sites along the New Hampshire coast and Great Bay. Volunteers and volunteer coordinators are needed to oversee each site.

To participate in the event or be a volunteer coordinator, e-mail coastalcleanup@blueoceansociety.org or call (603) 431-0260.

"Eel-of-Fortune" at Alewife Festival

Testing your luck on the "Eel-of-Fortune" was one of the exhibits sponsored in part by the NH Estuaries Project (NHEP) and NHCP at the Fifth Annual Alewife Festival in Exeter in June. After a spin on the wheel, the pointer could land on "eaten by a striped bass" or "stopped by a dam," giving participants the chance to find out what it's like to be a migrating eel. Players were also treated to a touch-tank of a dozen live eels, ranging from 10 to 24 inches long.

Photo: Dave Kellam

The Exeter River Local Advisory Committee partners with environmental, historical, community and arts groups to promote awareness of the role the Exeter River watershed plays in providing drinking water, wildlife habitat, and scenic and recreational opportunities to residents. This year, approximately 600 people came together to recognize and learn about the same watershed that gives life to the alewife, a herring that swims through the Exeter River on its journey from the ocean to spawn in freshwater.

The 29 exhibitors included NHCP, NHEP, Fish and Game, New Hampshire Audubon, Great Bay Coast Watch, Exeter Historical Society, and Seacoast Arts Association. Live animal displays, fishing lessons, arts and craft projects, and a canoe and kayak race were among the activities participants could choose from.

Spotlight on Exeter

Swasey Parkway in Exeter.
Photo: Eric M. Winch © 2005 iworksmedia.com

Incorporated: 1638

Population: 14,058 (2000)

Projected Population 2020: 16,680

Total Square Miles: 20

Watershed: Exeter River Watershed, which drains into Great Bay, a subset of Gulf of Maine Coastal Watershed.

Waterbodies: Exeter/Squamscott River, sometimes called the Fresh/Salt by the locals; Little River; Fresh River; Water Works Pond, also known as the Reservoir; and numerous streams and brooks.

Outstanding Features: **Henderson-Swasey Town Forest,** boasts popular network of multi-use trails used by mountain bikers, walkers, and cross country skiers; **Conner Farm Wildlife Management Area,** a state-owned mix of field and forest managed by Fish and Game and stocked with pheasants; and **Raynes Farm,** 50 acres of historic farmland, including the 150 year old Wiggens Barn, slated to become active farmland again—a rarity in both Exeter and southeastern New Hampshire.

Past NHCP projects: **Waterfront Park**—NHCP funds improved public access by installing a boardwalk, brick sidewalk, and floating boat dock on the banks of the Squamscott River. **Swasey Parkway**—In 1997, this waterfront park, which was originally designed in 1929 by the same landscape design firm who designed Central Park in New York City, was in serious need of an upgrade. NHCP funds allowed for the planning, design and implementation of improvements to the park. **Water Street Right-of-Way**—The right-of-way had been a long-standing environmental problem; storm events and roof drainage would continually erode the dirt and carry it into the river. NHCP funds helped mitigate the problems, including the construction of a centralized drainage system.

Successes: **Aquifer Protection District**—aims to protect town's significant groundwater recharge areas. Also, the town has been notably proactive in land preservation, especially riverfront areas to protect wetland and wildlife habitat as well as water quality for this drinking water source.

Challenges: Management issues surrounding the Great Dam—water impounded by the dam is listed as impaired, mainly because it's not meeting dissolved oxygen standards. In addition, migrating alewife, a river herring, has dropped to extremely low levels in past years.

Boardwalks improve public access in Rye

This summer, construction began on a boardwalk at Awcomin Marsh in Rye. An accessible boardwalk that leads to a viewing platform and a dirt footpath will enhance opportunities for photography, birding, and scenic enjoyment of this resource. In the fall, construction will begin on a boardwalk at Odiorne State Park, also in Rye. This boardwalk will provide access from the parking lot to trails at the park.

NHCP is one of the project partners that make access to these and other coastal sites possible.

Future site of boardwalk at Awcomin Marsh, Rye.

CZMA, *continued from page 1*

lion, the pass-through grant program for the NHCP would more than double," said Diers.

"While we are well poised for exciting ecosystem-based management work, we need Congressional support and a strengthened federal-state partnership to make this happen. The CZMA is one place Congress might invest in federal/state ocean planning and management and regional grant programs to support this work on an ongoing basis," said Donald Hudson, non-government representative to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, in his testimony during a CZMA hearing.

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***The Rip Tide* coming soon to an inbox near you!**

The Rip Tide delivers the most up-to-date information on NHCP news, grant availability, events, workshops and new publications. It comes out on approximately the first of the month every other month.

In the September edition …

Ever wondered about Red Tide? And why it was so bad this summer?

Learn about a citizen-based coalition working to monitor and protect water quality in the Cocheco River watershed.

Find out about coastal related events in your area, including the Great Bay Coast Watch's Chili & Chowdah Fest this fall.

Contact Cathy Coletti at ccoletti@des.state.nh.us or (603) 559-0024 to sign up for *The Rip Tide*.